

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131761

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, USIRJC

SUBJECT: USIRJC ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED RECENT REACTIONS ON PART OF
IRANIANS TO VARIOUS JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES THAT APPEAR
TO ADD UP TO A SLOW DOWN IN THE PACE OF IMPLEMENTING
VARIOUS PROJECTS (I.E., MINISTRY OF LABOR APPROVES, IN
PRINCIPLE, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S PROPOSAL, BUT PLEADS
UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS; FHWA PROPOSAL HAS MET SIMILAR
RESPONSE; AGRICULTURE TEAM, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL BE RETURNING
WITH NO FORMAL ADDENDUM TO AGREEMENT AND BELIEVES THAT
ARRIVALS OF ADDITIONAL SPECIALISTS MAY HAVE TO BE DELAYED
BY AS MUCH AS SIX MONTHS; VAFA HAS INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICERS
THAT FUNDING PROCEDURES FOR IRANIAN PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS
PROJECTED COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ESTAB-
LISHED). WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF REASONS
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PAGE 02 STATE 131761

FOR IRANIAN DELAYS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHAT, IF ANYTHING,

WE SHOULD BE DOING TO GET ACTIVITIES MOVING.

2. WE RECOGNIZE, IN THE MEANTIME, THAT WHEN IRANIANS RESOLVE THEIR DIFFICULTIES WITH PACE OF PROJECTED COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, WE MAY SUDDENLY BE FACED WITH GOI REQUESTS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION ON OUR PART TO SEND EXPERTS TO IRAN. WE WOULD THEN FACE THE TECHNICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS THAT YOU HAVE SO THOROUGHLY POINTED OUT TO US, SUCH AS PROVISION OF TRANSIENT AND LONG-TERM HOUSING AND MAINTENANCE OF SAME, IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION, STAFF SUPPORT SERVICES AND OFFICE SPACE AVAILABILITY, ETC. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON WHAT STEPS EMBASSY BELIEVES CAN BE TAKEN IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

3. IN OUR RECENT TALKS HERE WITH PROVENCHER WE AGREED THAT TRANSIENT AND LONG-TERM HOUSING FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS IS MOST CRITICAL ITEM AND ONE THAT PROBABLY CANNOT BE PUT ASIDE UNTIL GOI RESOLVES ITS CURRENT DIFFICULTIES. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE ESSENTIALLY TWO OPTIONS:

A. DESIGNATION BY GOI OF A CENTRAL AUTHORITY TO LOCATE TRANSIENT AND LONG-TERM HOUSING, NEGOTIATE LEASES, EXECUTE RENTAL AGREEMENTS, PROVIDE FURNISHINGS AND MAINTAIN PROPERTIES. ACTION ALONG THESE LINES NOW WOULD STABILIZE RENTAL COSTS WHICH WOULD BE IN GOI INTERESTS AS WELL. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, PREFER THIS ARRANGEMENT BUT YOUR PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES, HOWEVER, THAT GOI MAY BE UNABLE TAKE THIS KIND OF ACTION IN VIEW RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH MINISTRY FOR ACTIVITIES IN ITS AREA. BEFORE WE RESORT TO OPTION B, WE SUGGEST YOU AGAIN APPROACH GOI ON THIS OPTION, PREFERABLY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

B. ASSUMPTION BY EMBASSY OF ALL THESE FUNCTIONS ON BASIS TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS. DO YOU BELIEVE GOI WOULD BE READY AT THIS TIME OR NEAR FUTURE TO DEPOSIT MINIMUM OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS FRONT END MONEY TO ENABLE EMBASSY TO INITIATE PROCUREMENT OF FURNISHINGS, SIGN LEASES, ETC.? THIS INITIAL DEPOSIT WOULD HAVE TO BE SUPPLEMENTED SEVERAL FOLD AT LATER DATE IF CONTEMPLATED PROGRAMS ACTUALLY ARE CARRIED OUT.

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4. OLYMPIC VILLAGE MAY PROVIDE SOLUTION TO TRANSIENT HOUSING PROBLEM AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LOOKING INTO THIS SOONEST. KISSINGER

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